

I N V E S T I T U R E

OF HER WORSHIP

CHARLOTTE WHITTON, C.B.E.

MAYOR OF OTTAWA

INTO THE PEIGAN TRIBE OF THE
BLACKFOOT CONFEDERACY

A N D

HONORARY CITIZEN OF THE
TOWN OF FORT MACLEOD

Saturday, July 1st, 1961 - 11:00 a.m.

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MISS CHARLOTTE WHITTON
C.B.E, D.L.C, LL.D.

Miss Charlotte Whittan, in her sixth year as Mayor of Ottawa, Canada's national capital, is the honor guest of the Town of Fort Macleod for the 1961 Stampede and Frontier Days, June 30 and July 1.

Before she leaves Fort Macleod to return to her home city she will have added to her honorary titles. She will have been invested as an Honorary Princess of the Peigan Indians, one of the tribes of the famous Blackfoot Confederacy which at one time was the ruling Indian nation from the Red Deer River in Alberta to the Missouri River in southern Montana, a Confederacy which, under Chief Crowfoot, remained true to the Great White Mother, Queen Victoria, during the Rebellion of 1885.

Born in Renfrew, Ont., Miss Whittan, who has on several occasions been chosen the Canadian Woman of the Year, has lived her life in public service, with a list of accomplishments far beyond the average. She is an honor graduate of Queen's University. She is a writer and author of note, and an outstanding lecturer . . . at one time head of the Canadian Welfare Council for a 15-year term . . . Canadian representative of the Social Section of the League of Nations . . . an appointee of the Federal Government during World War II on welfare problems of military dependents . . . an unsuccessful candidate for House of Commons in Ottawa West in 1958 . . . elected Mayor of Ottawa for the years 1951 to 1956, and re-elected for the present term after a four-year

voluntary retirement . . . holder of the King's Jubilee Medal and the Canadian Medal . . . Miss Whittan has been described as "something almost unique in Canadian public life, a woman with a real flair for high old political shellacking."

Miss Whittan is no stranger to Alberta. In 1947, the Alberta Chapter of the I.O.D.E. asked her to make a survey of child welfare in Alberta. Her report, especially that part dealing with infant adoptions, created such a furore that the Provincial Government appointed a Royal Commission to look into child welfare in the Province. As a result the Commission report made over 20 recommendations, and Alberta today boasts one of the best child welfare organizations in Canada. Miss Whittan's needle brought results.

No doubt Old Timers who will be meeting her on her Fort Macleod visit will decide that she would have been very much at home in South Alberta in the days of the '70's and '80's when the Mounties and the ranchers were taming the West.

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FORT MACLEOD

The N.W.M.P. - Fort Macleod Story

Fort Macleod stands where it does to day because, on October 13, 1874, Col. James Farquharson Macleod, on the advice of his famous scout, Jerry Potts, chose an island in the Oldman River some 30 miles west of the notorious Fort Whoop-Up as the place for the first fort to be established by the North West Mounted Police, a semi-military force of some 250 men established by Act of Parliament in 1873.

The object of the Force was to bring law and order to the great Western Plains which, until 1867 when the North West Territories became a part of the new Dominion of Canada as a result of the British North America Act. had been a part of Rupertsland, the unknown, unsurveyed territory governed by the Hudson's Bay Company under a charter granted by King Charles in 1670. Prior to establishing the new Canada in 1867, the West, north of the 49th parallel, was little known, but disturbing rumors that whisky traders had established trading forts on Canadian territory reached Ottawa. To guard the new frontier and protect the Indian native population, the North West Mounted Police force was organized. That was the start of settlement of what became known as Canada's North West Territories. And Fort Macleod was the first outpost of the Riders of the Plains.

It was estimated that there were at that time some 30,000 Indians, Metis and Hudson's Bay Company white traders in the area between Fort Garry, Manitoba, and the Rocky Mountains. And the little force of 250 Mounties was sent to help and protect them, and make the great North West safe for the settlers who were ready to adventure into the then largely unknown country.

After Fort Macleod had been built in the fall of 1874, there followed Fort Walsh 200 miles east close to the Border in the Cypress Hills, and Fort Calgary, 100 miles north at the confluence of the Bow and the Elbow Rivers. These outposts were built in 1875. Fort Saskatchewan in north Alberta, Fort Qu'Appelle and other outposts followed. Col. French, who had been the first Commissioner of the N.W.M.P., resigned to take up military duties, and Col. Macleod became the second Commissioner as well as a stipendary magistrate. It was Col. Macleod's gift for winning the confidence of the Indian natives, especially those of the Blackfoot Confederacy, which made his years in Mounted Police service so valuable. In 1876 Treaty No. 6 with the Crees and Assiniboines of Saskatchewan territory, and in 1877 Treaty No. 7 with Head Chief Crowfoot and the Blackfoot Indians—the Soods, Peigans, north Blackfoot, Sarcees and Stoneys—paved the way for peace with the natives which held them loyal to the Great White Mother, Queen Victoria, through a troublous four years when Chief Sitting Bull, 2000 Sioux armed fighting men and 4000 followers, flowed over into Canadian territory after the Custer Massacre in Montana territory in 1876, and loyal, too, during the Riel Rebellion of 1885.

By 1883 the steel of the Canadian Pacific transcontinental railway reached Regina and Fort Calgary, and by 1885 the iron horse transport was linked up with the Pacific Coast. Canada was tied together from Atlantic to Pacific—ready to grow. Cattle and horse ranching filled the void that came with the disappearance of the buffalo from the Plains country around 1880. By the turn of the century settlers bent on farming, began to pour into the North West. Wheat was the golden word in those days, and Canada became the Granary of the Empire.

Meantime the Town of Fort Macleod had begun to take the place of the frontier whisky forts which had been put out of business by the Mounted Police. D. W. Davis, representing the I. G. Baker Company of Fort Benton, Montana, had come to Fort Macleod and established a trading post north of the 49th. The company trailed in cattle from U.S. to supply beef rations to the Indians on the reserves, the first cattle drives to South Alberta. It brought in supplies for the new rancher settlers to help in development. Their store was later bought by the Hudson's Bay Company who continued to serve the expanding population. Around it was built the town as we know it today. Earlier the Mounted Police had been forced by Oldman River floods to abandon the original fort and move southwest a couple of miles where new barracks were built.

Today Fort Macleod, which was incorporated as a town in 1892, is a thriving town of some 3000 population, serving the great foothill ranch country, a fertile farming area part of which is irrigated, an important transportation centre on two main highways, east-west and north-south, with a growing tourist business, and the town is still the centre of law and order and the amenities of the present day. It has fine schools, a municipal hospital, a go-ahead municipal set-up. And it has a tradition dating back to 1874 when Jerry Potts said to Col. Macleod on October 13: "Dere's de camp place I like." Col. Macleod agreed it was the right place. And Fort Macleod, and the town of Fort Macleod, were born. Alberta has since grown to a Province of more than one and one-quarter million people, rich in the heritage built around the camp site chosen by Col. Macleod, Jerry Potts and the North West Mounted Police originals 87 years ago.

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Fort Macleod Replica and Museum

One of the community undertakings of recent years to which citizens of Town and District point with pride is a replica of the original Fort Macleod built by the Mounted Police originals in the fall of 1874 following their 800-mile trek across the Prairies. The "Old Fort" was built on an island in the Oldman River, just east of the present town, and where the north-south trail used by the Indians and traders crossed the river. Threat of floods at the island site resulted in the moving of the headquarters to a new location on the southwest edge of town, on a bench above the river. The move took place in the late '70's, and the buildings were expanded to care for two divisions of the Force, needed when ranching became big business in the mid-eighties.

In a story giving the history of Fort Macleod town written recently by G. Rider Davis who was mayor of the town from 1939 to 1956, he said:

"Now that we have reached years of maturity, we are beginning to realize that battles alone do not make history, and that everywhere there are memorials which are well worth preserving before even the memory of them is gone. The attempt by the Fort Macleod Historical Society to recreate the old Fort has received generous support from the press in all parts of Canada."

It was the determined, even if somewhat belated, decisiveness of people of Fort Macleod that the Old Fort should not be forgotten which inspired the people of the pioneer town to strike out for the building of a replica of the first Mounted Police headquarters and to preserve inside its walls the museum pieces which would tell future generations something about the beginning of things in 1874.

Officers of the Fort Macleod Historical Society who were largely responsible for getting the project under way included Norman Grier, president; A. G. Millar, secretary; Harold Reeves, treasurer; F. S. Kreutzer, first vice-president; A. A. Neddaw, second vice-president, with Hon. James Hartley and Rider Davis, Q.C., as honorary presidents. A directorate of 21 workers, with Reed Ainscough as chairman, rounded out the organization.

Two helpful sources in making the enterprise possible were the historical section of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police administration at Ottawa, and the Department of Economic Affairs of the Alberta Government. Lags for the replica fort's stockade and bastions were made available, and the museum within the walls was built with this help. Generous donations were also made available from other South Alberta sources. Today the Fort and the Museum are an accomplished fact. What remains is to gather together the memorial pieces and history of the early days so that they may live in the minds of future generations.

Stan Elliott, a former Fort Macleod bonker, now retired, is in charge of the Fort and Museum as the curator, and he is asking all citizens of the town and district who have any historical piece which would fit into the picture to make it available to the Historical Association. Museums are not developed in a day or a year. Mr. Elliott says that people have been generous in making gifts to the Museum, especially after they have taken half a day off to see what is there. Original N.W.M.P. accoutrements, pioneer means of transportation, early implements of farm and ranch, early Indian curios and any other relics of early days would help greatly in visualizing for new generations something of the way people lived when the foundations of Fort Macleod community were being laid. Such gifts will, Mr. Elliott assures us, be protected and cherished, and make the dream of the Historical Society come true.

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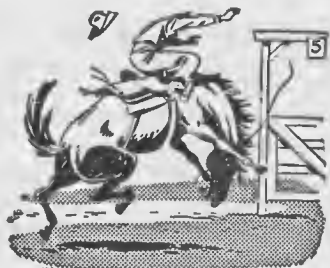
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Mayor Buzunis' Welcome



"As Mayor of Fort Macleod—first headquarters of the North West Mounted Police in 1874, and the oldest town in Alberta—I take this opportunity to extend on behalf of all citizens a Greeting and a hearty Welcome to the visitors who have come to help us celebrate our Frontier Days, June 30 and July 1.

"On this occasion we pay our respects to the memory of our Pioneer Ranchers who established Alberta's first great agricultural industry, cattle and horse ranching on our plains and foothills, some eighty years ago. They were the Range Men who paved the way for the prosperous Alberta of today.

"May I also take this opportunity to single out Don Boyle, chairman of the Stompede organization, who has for 25 years been a guiding figure, the major domo of this renewal of the spectacle of the early days in this 'Sirloin of the West'. In 1924 Fort Macleod celebrated the Golden Jubilee of the arrival of the North West Mounted Police. In 1949 we staged the 75th anniversary celebration. We are looking forward to the 100th anniversary in 1974. Our citizens like these celebrations recalling the pioneer days—we hope our visitors will like our 1961 presentation and will come again."

Mayor George Buzunis was born on a homestead at Vanguard, Sask., in 1914, the son of a pioneer settler. He came to Fort Macleod in 1951, established his own business and in October, 1959, he was elected Mayor of his adopted home town where he continues to take active interest in many community undertakings.

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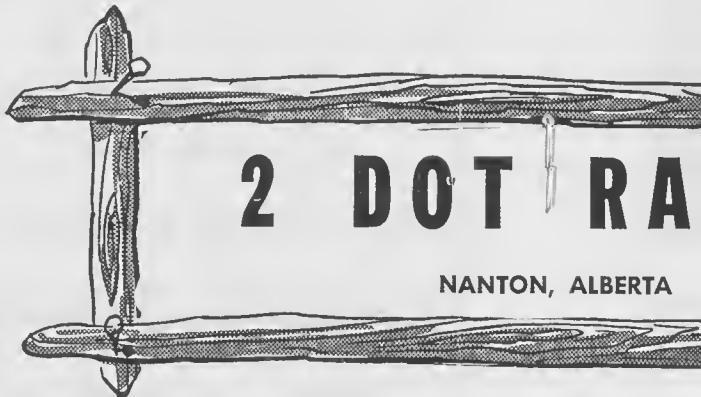
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Dan A. Boyle



Don Boyle, chairman of the Fort Macleod Stampede organization, has been a member of this widely known group which has been recalling Frontier Days since he came in 1936 to operate a theatre he had bought. During the quarter century since his arrival, he has been a member of the town council for 13 years, chairman of the Finance Committee and Deputy Mayor; a member of the Municipal Hospital Board; Chairman of the Willow Creek Foundation; Citizen of the Year in 1959, and one of the founders of the Fort Macleod Historical Society.

One of the undertakings of which he is most proud has been the building in the past few years of a replica of old Fort Macleod, built by the North West Mounted Police in 1874 after the long trek of some 250 originals of the famous Farce from Fort Garry to the new Frontier under the shadow of the Rocky Mountains, in Indian territory seen by few white men prior to that date. The new Fort is fast becoming a Museum in which relics of the days of the buffalo, the North West Mounted, the early ranchers and settlers, and the history of the Pioneer families are being preserved so that generations of today and the years ahead may learn something of the

traditions and the way-of-life of those who first braved these frontiers.

Mr. Boyle hopes the silver anniversary of the Fort Macleod Stampede will help recall those early days with their flavor of adventure in what was then an almost unknown part of Canada.

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Hon. James Hartley

Minister of Public Works in the Alberta Cabinet. Mr. Hartley has been Member of the Legislative Assembly for 25 years. He was a member of the town council for 21 years, and member of the Hospital Board for nine years, and in 1960 was made an honorary citizen of the Town of Fort Macleod by the Town Council. He is an honorary president of the Fort Macleod Historical Association.

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